UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:

Docket #03cv9685

MCCRAY, RICHARDSON, SANTANA,

WISE AND SALAAM LITIGATION

: New York, New York

September 8, 2011

-----:

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE MAGISTRATE JUDGE RONALD L. ELLIS,

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MAGISTRATE JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

McCray, Richardson and Santana:

For the Plaintiffs BELDOCK LEVINE & HOFFMAN McRay, Richardson, BY: MYRON BELDOCK, ESQ. Santana, and Salaam: KAREN DIPPOLD, ESQ.

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For the Plaintiff Wise: FISHER & BYRIALSEN, PLLC BY: ALISSA BOSHNACK, ESQ.

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For the Defendants: NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT

CORPORATION COUNSEL

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PHILIP DEPAUL, ESQ.
GENEVIEVE NELSON, ESQ.
ANDREW MYERBERG, ESQ.
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PATRICIA BAILEY, ESQ.

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INDEX

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 $\underline{\mathtt{E}} \ \, \underline{\mathtt{X}} \ \, \underline{\mathtt{A}} \ \, \underline{\mathtt{M}} \ \, \underline{\mathtt{I}} \ \, \underline{\mathtt{N}} \ \, \underline{\mathtt{A}} \ \, \underline{\mathtt{T}} \ \, \underline{\mathtt{I}} \ \, \underline{\mathtt{O}} \ \, \underline{\mathtt{N}} \ \, \underline{\mathtt{S}}$

Re- Re- Witness <u>Direct Cross Direct Cross</u>

None

EXHIBITS

Exhibit Voir Number Description ID In Dire

None

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 2
              THE CLERK:
                          In the matter of McRay, Richardson,
    Santana, Wise & Salaam Litigation. Counsel, please state your
 3
 4
    name for the record.
 5
              MR. MYRON BELDOCK: Myron Beldock, from Beldock,
    Levine & Hoffman, for the Salaam plaintiffs, as well as Karen
 6
 7
    Dippold.
 8
              MR. MICHAEL WARREN: Michael Warren, 580 Washington
 9
    Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, appearing on behalf of plaintiffs
10
    Richardson, McCray, and Santana.
11
              HONORABLE JUDGE RONALD L. ELLIS (THE COURT):
                                                              Good
12
    morning.
              MR. WARREN: Good morning, your Honor.
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14
              MR. BELDOCK: Your Honor, there is no one here on
15
    behalf of defendant, pardon me, of plaintiff Wise.
16
    counsel understands that we will stand in for them and they
17
    may be able to come here, someone may be able to come here
18
    while we're in process.
19
              THE COURT: From what my reports are this morning,
20
    everybody had a little trouble getting here.
21
              MR. BELDOCK: They have another court appearance
22
    that they had to attend to, but they understand that we're
    proceeding without them.
23
24
              THE COURT: We certainly will do that.
25
              MS. GENEVIEVE NELSON: Genevieve Nelson, Assistant
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 2
    Corporation Counsel, for defendants. With me is Elizabeth
    Daitz and Philip DePaul. Good morning, your Honor.
 3
              THE COURT: Good morning.
 4
 5
              MS. PATRICIA BAILEY: Good morning, Your Honor,
    Patricia Bailey.
 6
              THE COURT:
                         Okay, good morning. First of all, with
 7
 8
    respect to the in camera inspection, I have not actually
 9
    completed it. I did the unthinkable and took some time off.
10
    But I have started going through it and some questions have
11
    arisen as I was looking at them and I guess I want to direct
12
    this to the City so I know what it is that I'm looking at.
13
              In some of the documents, there appear to be
14
    information that is listed and it seems to be based upon
15
    interviews. And I wasn't sure whether or not the person was
16
    looking at a video and summarizing it and that the plaintiff
17
    had the video, can you --
18
              MS. DAITZ: Yes, your Honor, all the video tapes
19
    have been disclosed, they were disclosed in the underlying
20
    criminal trial and they were disclosed again in the civil
21
    litigation. To the extent that there are handwritten notes
22
    taken by the ADA defendants that are in the in camera brief
    set provided to the Court, there were handwritten notes taken
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24
    during the ADA's subsequent review of the video tapes in
25
    preparation for the prosecution.
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THE COURT: Okay. All right, I may ask for further clarification when I'm totally finished but I don't anticipate that taking too much longer.

recently concerning the training materials in plaintiff request 66 and 67, I must admit that although I read the parties' submissions, I wasn't sure why you were having a dispute. It seemed fairly clear to me that at least on the basic underlying premise that the plaintiffs had set forth some requests for training materials, that the simple thing would be for the City to produce the training materials that were asked for. And I wasn't sure why that didn't happen. I understand that the City wanted some broader protection for other training materials, but it seemed to me those were separate issues.

MS. DAITZ: Your Honor, if I may, the City, by the City I mean the Corporation Counsel Office, collects training materials from the Agency, obviously to review and produce in connection with, for instance, this litigation. And when we collected the training materials, you know, there are thousands of pages that we collect at one time and some of them are, for instance, like a whole criminal investigations course manual or a whole detectives manual. So as they're being reviewed, we make a determination with respect to

of our defenses.

1 | 7

sections as to whether they are responsive to plaintiffs'
requests or whether there is something that although
plaintiffs did not request, we would be producing in support

So they were reviewed and prepared for production and asked and that's what we did in this case. And the production is ready to go out, pending an agreement as to their confidentiality. We don't understand why plaintiffs are drawing a distinction in terms of confidentiality between the documents that are specifically responsive to their requests and documents that are produced in support of our defenses.

THE COURT: Okay, well I understand that but if I understand the process as these things go with training materials or other materials from some defendant or some entity, there are sections, and you know which sections you want to produce to the plaintiff, or sometimes it's the other way around, you can designate which ones are responsive so that the plaintiffs know which ones are responsive to their requests 66 and 67. What you want to do is you want to produce the whole thing and you don't want them to be not subject to confidentiality, although it does seem to me, and I'm not sure at some point the plaintiff didn't suggest this, that you can designate them as confidential, the rest of the training materials, and designate which ones are responsive.

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 2
              MS. DAITZ: Well, your Honor, pursuant to the
    stipulation and protective order that governs discovery, it
 3
    states, specifically paragraph 283, there are only two ways
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 5
    that a producing party can designate documents confidential
 6
    that are not explicitly contemplated in the language of the
 7
    stipulation. And that's either pursuant to an agreement
    between the parties, or to have the Court deem them
 8
    confidential. So we can't just, under the stip we can't just
 9
10
    produce them all with a confidentiality designation without an
11
    agreement in place.
12
              THE COURT:
                          Okay, let me just understand. You
13
    believe that the other training materials should be
14
    confidential --
15
                         Yes, your Honor --
              MS. DAITZ:
16
              THE COURT:
                          But you can't designate them as
17
    confidential without an agreement?
18
                          That's what the stipulation says.
              MS. DAITZ:
19
              THE COURT: And is that the way it works?
20
              MS. DIPPOLD: Your Honor, you are quite correct,
21
    they're two completely separate issues. The issue, the first
22
    issue we'd like resolved is we would like a response to our
23
    very specific document requests. We designated the issues we
    want to know about, we asked for the materials, we entered
24
25
    into an agreement with Corporation Counsel that they materials
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1 9 2 they produced in response to these requests would be confidential. We have no problem agreeing that training 3 materials should be confidential, we just simply want two 4 5 things. We want them to respond to our specific requests, which have been pending for a year and a half, and we want 6 7 them to give us an idea of what documents they're producing. They say they're producing things from the "Police Students 8 Guide, " fine, tell us that it's the "2003 Police Students 9 10 Guide," and that's enough, we'll agree that those documents 11 are confidential. 12 The problem is if they just produce 500 loose pages, 13 if you look at these guides, there is no way to tell what year 14 they're from or what particular course they're from. And we 15 just need the appropriate information so we can agree they're 16 confidential. We're not going to hand them out to anyone 17 else, we're agreeing they'll be confidential, and they can, 18 pursuant to the stip, although this is not the way I think it 19 should be done, they could just produce all 500 pages and then 20 we would challenge those that we think are not appropriately 21 subject to the stipulation. 22 THE COURT: Okay, frankly, it doesn't sound as if

THE COURT: Okay, frankly, it doesn't sound as if you're that far apart. If I understand correctly, what the plaintiffs want is they want to make sure that if you produce anything they know where it's from and when it's from. And

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1 10 2 that if you had, for example, a training manual and it had a table of contents, you would designate which parts of the 3 table of contents are responsive to what the plaintiff wants. 4 5 And what you want to not have to do is to break it up into parts and do it piecemeal. 6 MS. DAITZ: Your Honor, if I may, with all of 7 defendants productions that we've done, close to 80,000 8 9 documents to date, we have always made a production 10 identifying the source of the materials being produced, what 11 range of Bates numbers, what type of document, and we certain 12 intend to do that in this case. We're not just going to 13 produce here are the training materials, but at the same time, 14 to have defendants obligated to list out the dates and the years as a precursor to an agreement on confidentiality, is 15 16 counterproductive and it is also counter to the explicit 17 language of the stipulation which says that the receiving 18 party, upon receipt of the document, has to list out whatever 19 documents they feel are not properly designated confidential. THE COURT: All right, counsel, I'm going to go out 20 21 on a limb on this one, I'm going trust all of you, all right, 22 I'm going to expect that what the defendants are going to 23 produce is the training materials sufficiently designated and identified so that the plaintiffs know where they are. I mean 24 25 if you're right, then there is no problem, then I won't hear

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from the plaintiffs that say they can't figure it out.

I suspect, and I don't know this for sure, that in some respects what the plaintiffs already have, and I'll get to that later, isn't sufficiently designated so that one could make those kind of determinations. But I certainly expect anything that you produce to them will be identified so that they know where and when it's from. As to the parts -- but you need to identify which ones are specifically responsive to the 66 and 67.

As to the rest of it, just it seems to me from the point of view of efficiency, it makes sense for you to produce and entire document, as long as the ones that are responsive are designated. And so if the question is whether or not you're going to get the plaintiffs' okay or the Court's okay, I'm directing that you do it as a, I mean I wouldn't want you to break up a training manual for the purpose of designating when you could just tell the plaintiffs which parts of the training manual are responsive.

So I would designate them as confidential, if the plaintiff finds some that are particularly egregious, although frankly I don't know why any of these things will ultimately be a problem because I don't know that there would be somebody particularly interested in them, but once the plaintiff finds out which ones are responsive, if they think some of the

1 12 2 others shouldn't be designated, then you can bring them back up to me. I'm not going to review them myself, but if you 3 think that they shouldn't be so designated, rather than having 4 you, two, argue over it, we'll skip that step, I'll allow them 5 to designate them as confidential, if you think for some 6 7 reason they need to be undesignated or they need to be available for some other reason, I'll reconsider that, but in 8 the meantime everything stays confidential if it's training 9 10 materials. 11 But the main thing is that the plaintiffs will have 12 a specific response to their request such that they can know 13 what it is that's responsive to what they wanted. I mean if 14 that's what they want, that's what they want. 15 MS. DAITZ: Your Honor, I'm just going to ask that 16 with respect to all productions of documents, and that both 17 parties be similarly obligated. I mean, for instance, I got 18 production from plaintiffs on August 31st that just said this 19 is supplementing Yusef Salaam's document production, with now indication as to whether it was responsive to our requests, in 20 support of plaintiffs' defenses, responsive to a subpoena that 21 22 we served. So if defendants are obligated to parse through 23 productions to identify why we're producing the document, we would just expect the same from all parties. 24 25 MS. DIPPOLD: I have no problem doing that, your

1 13 2 Honor. I'm glad you don't. Okay. All right, 3 THE COURT: now, and the other issue which was related to that is I 4 5 understand that the plaintiffs have some materials and the question was whether or not the plaintiffs should produce 6 7 them, or whether or not the plaintiffs wait and see what you produced, and then produce what's not duplicative. 8 9 I'm torn on this one because I'm not so sure in the 10 way they're being produced, whether or not the Plaintiffs 11 would be able to make that determination, but in the interest 12 of efficiency, I would like to have the stuff produced from 13 the defendants, have the plaintiffs look at it, and then you 14 can make your determination as to whether or not what you have 15 is coextensive with the defendants. 16 MS. DIPPOLD: We're perfectly willing to do that. If 17 there's anything -- the two volumes are right here, they're 18 the "Criminal Investigation Course," and "Investigators Guide" 19 from particular years. Once we see what the defendants are 20 producing, if there is anything here that they haven't 21 produced to us we'll gladly copy it and give it back, you 22 know, send it to them. 23 THE COURT: Okay, just let me give you the source of my ambivalence, and that is that it seems to me that it may 24 25 take more work and effort for you to do that than to just

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    produce, I mean I don't know how many pages that you have, I
 3
    mean --
              MS. DIPPOLD: Several hundred.
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 5
              THE COURT: Well, you know, I mean if it's just a
    question of the cost of reproducing --
 6
              MS. DAITZ: Your Honor, we could bear the cost of
 7
    the copying, I don't know that that's the necessary question,
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 9
    it's just that, you know, as I said, we're producing parts of
10
    certain manuals and parts of others, and to the extent that
11
    they're not identified on their face by date or source, we're
12
    providing that information to plaintiffs. But I think it could
13
    be extremely arduous of a task for plaintiffs to make a
14
    literal line by line comparison of those two manuals with the
15
    500 pages of documents that we're producing. And in the
16
    interim, your Honor --
17
              THE COURT: Okay, other than the potential cost of
18
    reproducing, is there any reason that you wouldn't just give
19
    that to them?
20
              MS. DIPPOLD: Mr. Beldock is suggesting that they
21
    should be producing the things that we're asking for, plus if
22
    they told me --
23
                          They're going to produce what you're
              THE COURT:
    asking for, that's a different issue, the question is I mean
24
25
    as often happens in cases, from some source or other the
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1 15 2 plaintiff may have some incomplete production. What we're talking about now is what you have in your possession, which 3 may not be coextensive to what the defendants are going to be 4 produced, but that's a different issue. What the defendants 5 want is what you have as partials or undesignated, whatever, 6 7 if they are going to pay for the reproduction, I don't know why you would object to it. 8 MR. BELDOCK: It's not exactly that, I'm responsible 9 10 for getting these documents in another litigation with the 11 City, they were given to me voluntarily without 12 confidentiality in another litigation with the City, with 13 other attorneys from the City. We've been trying to get 14 training material for a year and a half, we got those training 15 materials very easily from the other counsel. 16 From the co-counsel. MS. DIPPOLD: 17 MR. BELDOCK: From their co-counsel in the other 18 case, but Corporation Counsel was involved in it. We don't 19 understand why they've had such difficulty producing training 20 materials to us, why it's taken a year and a half or us to get 21 them. And at that point, we feel it's only fair that they 22 show us what they have been able to find, that we compare 23 them, and then we will obviously give them what we have gotten 24 elsewhere. It just seems wrong. Maybe I'm not making myself 25 clear to your Honor, but for a year and a half we've been

16

2 trying to get training material, which in another case I got

3 within a few weeks, if not months, from the City. The City

4 has claimed they couldn't get any training materials or they

5 | couldn't find any training materials, there is something about

6 this process which is unfair to us that bothers me.

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You want us to give them to them now, we'll exchange with them, if necessary.

THE COURT: I do, and I want the City do exactly what you say you've been trying to do for a year and a half. I don't disagree with anything you said, and I understand that you each have your interests in doing things, but as I started out saying, it seems to me this is a simple question of you ask for stuff, you get it. I understand that in producing, when we're dealing with producing manuals and things, they're not necessarily easily separable, and it makes more sense to designate them, and whether or not they are going to all be confidential, I don't know why you couldn't agree on that, it seems to me it's a fairly simple thing, I put my imprimatur on it that I would rather have the stuff just be produced, give it to the plaintiffs and let the plaintiffs look at it. And you're obligated to do it, you designate it, I'm more concerned with whether or not what the City produces to you is sufficiently designated so that you can work with it. And if they do that, and they get copies of what you have, which you

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 2
    say was produced in some other litigation so I'm not even sure
    why there's an issue about it.
 3
              MS. DAITZ: Your Honor, I just need to say for the
 4
 5
    record that outside counsel for the City of New York produced
 6
    the training materials in the case that Mr. Beldock is
 7
    referring to. And I don't think that that necessarily bears
 8
    upon our ability to retrieve responsive documents from our
    clients in this case.
 9
10
              But aside from that, I think what we all want to do
11
    is move forward with the deposition that's been on hold
12
    pending the production of training materials, and the City is
13
    prepared to make the production under your Honor's ruling by
14
    tomorrow, and assuming we can get the materials that are in
15
    plaintiffs' possession so that we have an opportunity to
16
    review them.
17
              I mean if we proceed with depositions while they're
18
    still doing this line by line comparison --
19
              THE COURT:
                          Okay, you understand right now that's
20
    the process, so you're arguing what I've already --
21
              MS. DAITZ: I'm sorry, I was unclear, your Honor.
22
              MR. BELDOCK: We're prepared to exchange, your
23
    Honor, but we don't want the City to have our documents before
24
    they give us their documents. I know I'm sounding, I may
25
    sound a little --
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                                                          18
 2
              THE COURT:
                          You object to the exchange?
                          No, your Honor, they'll have them
 3
              MS. DAITZ:
 4
    tomorrow.
 5
              THE COURT:
                          Okay.
                          And we can send one messenger to
 6
              MS. DAITZ:
 7
    Beldock, Levine and Hoffman to drop off our production and to
 8
    pick up theirs.
 9
              THE COURT: You want them to meet midway like at a
10
    court someplace? Okay, I understand your frustration, Mr.
11
    Beldock, you've been asking for this for a year and a half,
12
    you should get it, and you will get it.
13
              MR. BELDOCK: And why couldn't we get it right away?
14
    Why have we been delayed and having to do witnesses without
15
    that training material? It's an issue that I just want on the
16
    record, we'll take it up later if necessary.
17
              MS. DAITZ:
                          I need to also note for the record, your
18
    Honor, that the defendants interposed valid objections to
19
    plaintiffs' discovery requests, we did not receive a
20
    deficiency letter, it was not brought to our attention that
21
    they (indiscernible) our objection until at deposition, you
22
    know, ten months later where he renewed their request.
23
              So I think it's not just that defendant should have
24
    produced documents immediately, if there was some dispute as
25
    to the nature of the request or the nature of the objection,
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1 19 2 it was incumbent upon plaintiffs to bring it to our attention to facilitate that production sooner than what ended up --3 THE COURT: Okay, all I'll say is this. All right, 4 5 I understand that we've had some stops and starts in this, but at least I hope you understand if you bring it to my attention 6 7 I will decide it. And I looked at the correspondence, I noticed sometimes when you are dealing with multiple people on 8 the side that causes issues, but I will say that Mr. Beldock 9 10 is correct that this is something that should have been 11 resolved a while ago. 12 It is not my habit to say what went wrong in the 13 past, what I like to do is to make sure we go forward, okay. 14 And as I see it, I expect the City to produce the documents 15 and designate them so that the plaintiffs can work with them, 16 and I expect that the plaintiffs will produce to the City 17 whatever documents they have that are related to the same 18 issue. 19 Is there any question about where I stand on this? And again, I'm not going to try to reconstruct everything 20 21 that's gone wrong in the past. I know that we've had some 22 missteps, but at least I'm trying to get us now on the right 23 track. Let's hope that, and if anything else comes up, and if there are any issues with this production I expect, I'm sure I 24 25 will hear about it. The only, my biggest concern so that

1 20 2 you'll know is that this is my law clerk's last week, so some other law clerk will come in and will not understand the 3 extent of the task on which they are about to undertake. I'm 4 not sure when I hired them I made it clear what the 5 responsibilities were. So, you know, I just want to make sure 6 7 they don't quit after a week. But the basic thing is, look, somebody asked for 8 some documents in discovery, there's supposed to be some 9 dialog between the parties, if it doesn't work, you bring it 10 11 to me and it took more time than it had to, perhaps the 12

plaintiffs were more solicitous than they should have been,

13 maybe they should have brought it as soon as they weren't

14 getting what they thought they should have gotten. I'm not

15 going to blame them for that because I do like people to try

to work things out. But they're right and they should have

17 gotten it.

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I understand the concern you have. Again, I don't think it makes sense to try to take parts of manuals or other kinds of materials and parse them out. I hope now we've worked out the confidentiality issue, and I don't think it's as simple as just telling, okay, here's the plaintiff, and you work it out and tell us what's not right. But I do think that once the plaintiff knows what it is that they have, what's responsive to their request, they may, in fact, find that some

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 2
    of the things maybe shouldn't be confidential and maybe
    they'll decide they don't want to make an issue of it. Because
 3
    unless until they want to do anything with it, there's no
 4
 5
    problem with keeping it confidential anyway.
              So any other questions?
 6
                          Your Honor, I have a separate issue with
 7
              MS. DAITZ:
    your Honor's --
 8
 9
              THE COURT:
                         Broached already with the plaintiff?
10
                          Yes, actually I -- oh, Ms. Boshnack is
              MS. DAITZ:
11
    here.
12
              THE COURT:
                          Did this come up in the last five hours,
13
    what?
14
              MS. DAITZ: No, your Honor, actually it came up back
15
    in May, defendants had requested, initially we requested tax
16
    returns from the plaintiffs, first we went to their economic
17
    damages claims. The parties all reached an agreement that the
18
    plaintiffs would instead produce, at least at this time,
19
    releases for a particular type of tax document that is not
20
    actually the full return, and all the plaintiffs have provided
21
    them to defendants on a rolling basis, except for two
22
    plaintiffs, Daniel Wise and Victor Wise. And Ms. Boshnack
23
    informed me by email this morning that she now has Victor
    Wise's releases, and that we would like to make a formal
24
25
    application to compel those releases from plaintiff, Daniel
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    Wise, which it's my understanding Ms. Boshnack doesn't
 2
    actually object to.
 3
              MS. BOSHNACK: We've been trying to get him to sign
 4
 5
    off on them and send them to us, and --
 6
              THE COURT:
                          You want the defendants to compel your
 7
    client because you can't get stuff from your client, is that
 8
    what I'm hearing?
 9
              MS. BOSHNACK: I'm okay with having the order to
10
    compel him to do it.
11
              THE COURT: I'm not so sure that that's what the
12
    motion to compel is designed to do. Is there something I
    should be aware of, should I --
13
14
              MS. BOSHNACK: Just so that he understands that it
15
    is something that he is required to comply with if he wants to
16
    be able to have that portion of his damages attacked to his
17
    claim.
              THE COURT: Okay, it's just that I'm sitting here
18
19
    wondering if I get a motion to compel from the Corp Counsel,
20
    what kind of response am I going to get from the plaintiff?
21
              MS. DAITZ: Hopefully it will be production of the
22
    document.
23
                          Okay. Well, what I mean is this could
              THE COURT:
    take some time unless what I get from the plaintiff is
24
25
    something which short circuits the whole idea of briefing and
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1 23 2 the motions. Because if the idea is we want the plaintiff to understand and comply, is this the best we can come up with, a 3 motion to compel? 4 5 MS. BOSHNACK: Or I can convey to him that it was discussed in court and if he doesn't comply there will be a 6 7 motion to compel or he'll be forfeiting that portion of his claim, and perhaps that's a better way to go about it if --8 9 THE COURT: Because I don't want this, I mean there 10 are motions to compel and there are arguments on the other 11 side. If we just have a recalcitrant person, and they don't 12 want to produce documents, and they don't understand the 13 seriousness of the request, then if they file a motion I don't 14 know that there is any response on the other side. So you can 15 tell your client that if the Corp Counsel has to file a motion 16 that might be too late for this process. 17 MS. BOSHNACK: Okay, that's what I'll do then. MS. DAITZ: Your Honor, we would just like a date 18 19 certain since we have been having this discussion since May 20 and the delay in getting us these releases and then, you know, 21 at no fault of any of the parties, certainly the IRS is not 22 prompt in forwarding its responses to the subpoenas with the 23 release --24 THE COURT: Actually, now that I think about it, I 25 don't know that we need a formal motion to compel, is there

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 2
    any reason that the information should not be produced, do you
    believe that it's not relevant, counsel?
 3
              MS. BOSHNACK: The only way it would not be relevant
 4
 5
    is if he is not claiming those damaged, and unfortunately we
    haven't been able to get that confirmation from him as to
 6
 7
    whether or not --
                         Perhaps what we ought to do is we should
 8
              THE COURT:
 9
    just do an order directing him to produce it, give you
10
    something to do in your waning hours. We'll set a time limit.
11
    How is the communication with your client I was just trying to
12
    see what would be a reasonable timeframe? If you got an order
13
14
              MS. BOSHNACK: What I'll do is I'll send it to him
15
    by regular and certified mail, obviously I'll also try to
16
    contact him by telephone, however, it's difficult to get in
17
    contact with him. He lives in the same house as Delores Wise,
    who is no longer represented by our firm, and so --
18
19
              THE COURT: My question is, let me put this more
20
    precisely, is two weeks too short a time, given --
21
              MS. BOSHNACK: For the mail to arrive, I'll send it,
22
    I can send the letter to him today or tomorrow, it will be
23
    there by next week.
24
              THE COURT: Okay, well we'll get the order out today
25
    and you'll get --
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 2
              MS. BOSHNACK: So as soon as I get the copy of the
    order I'll send that out with a --
 3
                          Okay, we'll make it two weeks from
 4
              THE COURT:
 5
    tomorrow.
 6
              MS. DAITZ: Thank you, your Honor, and with respect
 7
 8
                         And that's, who is this going to be now?
              THE COURT:
              MS. BOSHNACK: It's for Daniel Wise.
 9
10
              THE COURT: Daniel Wise, and you're satisfied you
11
    have the other or did you get it already?
12
              MS. BOSHNACK: And I will bring over Victor Wise's
    either later today or tomorrow.
13
14
              THE COURT: All right, we'll do an order on Daniel
15
    Wise. Anything else?
              MS. DAITZ: Yes, your Honor, with respect to the
16
17
    plaintiff, Delores Wise, we just want it to be put on the
18
    record that we have been cc-ing her on all correspondence
19
    between the parties as a plaintiff pro se, and we did advice
    her in writing of this conference today, I don't believe she
20
21
    has appeared. And, as well, your Honor, we have requested that
    she appear for her continuing deposition on September 27th and
22
23
    that she confirm her attendance by the end of this week, but
24
    we haven't heard any response to that request yet.
25
              THE COURT: All right, thank you, anything else?
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1 26 2 MR. WARREN: Yes, your Honor. 3 THE COURT: Mr. Warren. Yes. Your Honor, I was elected to 4 MR. WARREN: 5 represent or to depose Officer Reynolds in this case, and 6 Officer Reynolds is not a named party, but he's a third party 7 witness. But he's a third party witness who had substantial contact and, in fact, was involved in substantial interaction 8 9 in this case, not only involving the arrest of some of the 10 people who were arrested, our plaintiffs, but also in terms of 11 the activities that occurred within the Central Park precinct, 12 itself. 13 He, for example, was part of two -- of two 14 interviews that were conducted of witnesses in the Central 15 Park precinct and was there at the time that Kevin Richardson 16 was there, and was present with a detail of police officers 17 that went to pick up Antron McCray. And during the deposition 18 at some point near the end of the day, I became aware of 19 certain communications that were made by Officer Reynolds, 20 Detective Reynolds, to a blog which was a Daily News blog, in 21 fact, it was a public blog. And I noted that in those 22 communications he made references to defendants as being 23 mutts, and, of course, I couldn't help from recalling the same characterization made by Detective McKenna in this case, who 24 25 is a defendant in this case, in his book, in which he defined

1 27 2 our clients as being mutts. He also in his communications referred to gang of 3 thugs, police wolf pack, chasing prey. He made negative 4 5 characterizations about 100 Blacks In Law Enforcement, and he

7 about his belief that in spite of the convictions being vacated against our clients, that they were still guilty, that 8

also made a statement in one of these communications about,

they were not innocent, they were still guilty. 9

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And I think that, and, of course, let me just go on further, I made an application to question him, naturally, about whether, in fact, he was the author of the communications that were a part of this blog, and immediately Mr. Myerberg, who was representing him, the City represents him, notwithstanding his third party status, Mr. Myerberg refused or instructed him not to answer the questions.

Now, we would have, or I would have made an attempt to get a legal ruling at that time, and the only reason I did not is because of the lateness of the hour and the time that was allotted us or myself in terms of the total time for the deposition. And, of course, I didn't want to disturb your Honor at that time, but secondly we wanted to, in good faith we wanted to legitimately research the issue so that we could determine whether, in fact, the objection was unfounded. And in fact, we believe the objection is unfounded, there are a

1 28 2 few cases which are cited in a correspondence of July 22nd that was sent to your Honor, and in those cases, those three cases 3 or so, it specifically indicates that discovery, whenever the 4 issue of relevancy is at hand, that discovery is broader than 5 admissibility. And, in fact, these issues are relevant. 6 I am seeking from your Honor, most respectably, to 7 have this deposition reopened so that I can ask the vital 8 questions of Detective Reynolds whether, in fact, it's a 9 10 threshold question, you were the author of these 11 communications, which we firmly believe that he was. And 12 secondly, to ask other questions relating to those 13 communications, and perhaps other communications that have a 14 direct impact and effect on his credibility. And should there 15 be a trial in this case, then obviously those issues would be 16 gone into if he were on the stand and testifying as a witness. 17 And certainly I would like to be able to ask those questions 18 and continue to ask about those issues during the deposition. 19 If your Honor would indulge me for one second, 20 Also, your Honor, Mr. Beldock advised me that we have 21 the same problem with Officer Weir in terms of not being 22 allowed to go into IAB complaints. We believe that we should 23 be able to go into IAB complaints, anything that affects the credibility of these officers. And, in fact --24 25 THE COURT: Is that also one that's already taken

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 2
    place?
                                        And, in fact, during the,
 3
              MR. WARREN:
                           Yes.
                                 Yes.
    now that I recall, during the depositions of Officer,
 4
 5
    Detective Reynolds, there are certain things that came out
    during the initial part of the deposition, questions that I,
 6
 7
    threshold questions that I raised, that ultimately resulted in
 8
    the revelation that he was facing or had faced certain
 9
    lawsuits, several lawsuits during the course of his career.
10
    And I would like to be able to go more deeply into that area,
11
    and one of those instances, one of the individuals who was
12
    arrested in a case that he was involved in had been shot and
13
    was in the hospital, and was in intensive care unit, and he
14
    was sued because he, the man needed oxygen and he pulled the
15
    oxygen mask off of his face in an attempt to do whatever. I
16
    was not allowed to get further into that area. But it's these
17
    type of inquiries that I think are legitimate inquiries. I
18
    would like for your Honor to make a ruling. They're not simply
19
    third party witnesses and even if they were third witnesses we
    contend that we have a right to deal with their credibility,
20
21
    and but this Officer Reynolds, Detective Reynolds is more than
22
    a third party witness for the reasons that I've just
23
    discussed.
24
              THE COURT:
                          I get the gist of what you're saying,
25
    who wants to --
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 2
              MR. BELDOCK: Also civilian complaints, as well, Mr.
    Beldock.
 3
              THE COURT: Who wants to tell me the other side of
 4
 5
    the story.
              MR. DEPAUL: Yes, your Honor, Philip DePaul. If I
 6
 7
    could just, for your Honor, bring in a little bit of content.
    These questions that were raised in the July 22^{nd} letter of Mr.
 8
 9
    Beldock, refer to a message board, comments on a message board
10
    that Mr. Warren intends to ask Detective Reynolds.
11
              He marked a ten-page document as an exhibit and then
12
    attempted to ask questions about that document. The comments
13
    in that document refer to the Sean Bell matter, an incident
14
    that is unrelated to this case, that occurred 17 years after
15
    the incident that's the facts and circumstances of this
16
    lawsuit.
17
              Mr. Myerberg who was counsel at the time, directed
18
    Mr. Reynolds not to answer the question, not on the basis of
19
    relevance, but on the basis of it being harassment. Simply
20
    put, the questions don't go to Officer Reynolds' credibility,
21
    they go to harassment. They are basically questions of giving
22
    him to give opinion on a racially charged case, or asking his
23
    opinion on African-American people, in general, it didn't go
    to this credibility.
24
              THE COURT: You don't think that those issues that
25
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 2
    you just mentioned, one's thoughts about racially charged
    cases and the African-American community would be relevant?
 3
              MR. DEPAUL: No, your Honor, it's -- one brief
 4
 5
    moment, your Honor. Your Honor, again, it's not relevant, it
    goes to the harassment of a witness about his opinions on a
 6
 7
    case that occurred 17 years after the incidents in this
 8
    matter.
 9
              THE COURT: And I'm not sure why you think that
10
    that's not relevant, I mean are you saying that if he -- are
11
    these different opinions than he would have had 17 years ago?
12
              MR. DEPAUL: Your Honor, I'm not sure, but --
13
              THE COURT:
                          I think you answered the question then
14
    didn't you?
15
              MR. DEPAUL: What?
16
                          I mean, first of all, the direction not
              THE COURT:
17
    to answer a question, you really have to have it on, you know,
18
    it's very solid, I mean it don't think it was designed to make
19
    a motion. And the question of one's credibility and the issues
20
    that are swirling around in this case, certainly are, one can
21
    argue about what is and what is not relevant. It seems to me
22
    the question about what you can ask a witness in that regard
23
    in terms of his views, actually I'm not sure when or if they
    ever lose their relevance.
24
25
              MR. DEPAUL: Additionally, your Honor, my colleague,
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    Mr. Myerberg, attempted to raise this issue with the Court at
    that time, many times in fact, at the deposition. Mr. Warren
 3
    replied he was going to reserve his rights on the issue. So
 4
 5
    while we attempted to raise the issue with the Court to
    resolve it at the deposition, plaintiffs' counsel decided that
 6
 7
    they didn't want to, and then for over an hour played 911
    calls. So it was -- it was our position at the time that we
 8
 9
    could have resolved this --
10
              THE COURT: Right, and you could have,
11
    notwithstanding whatever Mr. Warren did, you could have raised
12
    it with me, or he could have. I mean was there a direction to
13
    the witness not to answer?
14
              MR. DEPAUL: Correct, your Honor.
15
                          Once there's a direction to the witness
              THE COURT:
16
    not to answer, you have it in your power to contact me,
17
    regardless of what Mr. Warren does.
                           Well, your Honor, we did suggest that
18
              MS. NELSON:
19
    several times to plaintiffs' counsel, we were at their
20
    offices, their phones, they continued with the deposition. I
21
    don't know that there was anything more for us to do barring a
22
    ruling from your Honor.
23
              THE COURT: Well, I understand that, I like people
24
    to be civil, but as a legal matter, at that point you could
25
    have said we're stopping the deposition and we're going to get
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 2
    a ruling from the Court.
              MS. NELSON: I agree, your Honor, but as your Honor
 3
    has pointed out to us on several occasions, that is not the
 4
 5
    alternative that you would prefer.
 6
              THE COURT:
                          That's correct.
              MS. NELSON:
                           What we did was we put plaintiff on
 7
    notice as to our objection, we had the witness not answer that
 8
 9
    question, and we moved forward at plaintiffs' preference.
                                                                We
10
    shouldn't now be penalized that we didn't call your Honor
11
    because plaintiffs didn't want it. We certainly made our
    objection known for the record, we've made it known to
12
13
    plaintiffs several times.
14
              THE COURT: Well what does the record show at that
15
    point, does the plaintiff say, okay, everything is fine, or
16
    does he say --
17
              MS. NELSON: No, what the record shows, your Honor,
18
    is that plaintiff said we have other matters we would like to
19
    go through, let's go through them. They came back to the issue
20
    again, Mr. Myerberg raised his objection again, and that
21
    deposition ended without calling your Honor. And if I remember
22
    correctly we were still within our seven hours, so we didn't
23
    even raise that objection as a reason not to call your Honor.
24
              MR. WARREN: Your Honor, I think that Ms. Nelson
25
    would have to agree that we all agreed at the eleventh hour
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    that these issues would be collectively raised, as I
    understand it. And again, you know, there were, these issues
 3
    were always on the table, and certainly it became aggravated
 4
 5
    at the eleventh hour when we became aware of the transmission
    to the -
 6
 7
              (interposing)
              THE COURT:
                           What's this eleventh hour that we're
 8
 9
    referring to?
10
              MS. NELSON: -- I'm not sure what the eleventh hour
11
    is you're talking about.
12
              THE COURT:
                           What time was it?
13
              MS. NELSON:
                            It certainly wasn't midnight, and we
14
    were again still within our seven hours. And I won't agree
15
    with Mr. Warren, Mr. Moore on several occasions stopped the
16
    deposition over our objection not to answer a question, and
17
    called your Honor. The issue got resolved, the deposition
18
    continued, you know, consistent with your Honor's ruling.
19
              And I just want to point out that during the
20
    Reynolds deposition, at one of those times, we did raise the
21
    objection and asked -- an instructed the plaintiff not to
    answer it. That was a 5:20, pursuant to Mr. Fisher.
22
23
    Warren said we're not going to deal with this now, we're going
    to deal with it at the end of day, but not now, that was at
24
25
    5:20, and by the end of the day we thought he was going to
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 2
    call the Court.
              How this ended was we objected, we put our objection
 3
    on the record, Mr. Warren ended the deposition, and we left.
 4
 5
              MR. WARREN:
                           Judge, that is not true.
                                                      The --
              MS. NELSON:
                           But the record will --
 6
              THE COURT:
                          Counsel, counsel --
 7
                           My apologies, your Honor.
 8
              MS. NELSON:
 9
              THE COURT:
                          Okay. I'm, you knew where I was going
10
    on this?
11
              MS. NELSON: Yes, your Honor, I apologize.
12
              THE COURT:
                          All right.
13
              MR. WARREN:
                           Judge, first of all, it not only
14
    applies to Detective Reynolds, it also applies to Officer
15
    Weir, as well. And at 5:20, I think the deposition ended at
16
    approximately 7:00, and we indicated once we became aware that
17
    there were other issues, that we would make these issues
    available by way of argument and that was in the letter that
18
19
    was sent from Mr. Beldock, at the appropriate time. Because
20
    given the fact that it had arrived 7:00 at the end of the day,
21
    that was, the time was about expired, and we felt that on that
22
    basis it wasn't appropriate to contact the Court at that time.
23
              THE COURT:
                          Okay, before you continue with this,
24
    before you continue with the procedural issue, let's deal with
25
    the substance of this. And the substance is this, okay, if you
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1 36 2 had these witnesses on the stand and the question came up as to whether or not they had been involved in these blogs, do 3 you think the Judge would let that question come in? 4 5 MS. DAITZ: Your Honor, if I may, I'm sorry, Mr. DePaul, I would like to address that issue. I think the answer 6 7 is not only no, but in this particular case, you know, there are hundreds of racially charged incidents in this City, 8 9 particularly in the past 20 years. And to allow plaintiffs, 10 with every single nonparty witness, when we're already talking 11 over seven hours per deposition, to inquire about each 12 witness' opinion as to each and every racially charged case, 13 in the hopes that a witness might say something like, you 14 know, I thought the officers' actions in the Sean Bell case 15 were justified --16 THE COURT: Okay, just before you continue with 17 this, I will make it clear to you that I would never let a lawyer just ask a question out of the dark, that is just say, 18 19 okay, what's your opinion on this. If a lawyer wants to ask a 20 question, the first thing I'm going to ask him is do you have 21 a good faith basis for believing that there is something here, 22 and what Mr. Warren has told me is not just that he's asking 23 people, okay, what's your view on the Sean Bell case, it's that you've written some very incendiary things, did you write 24 25 this stuff? Or there are some very incendiary things written

1 37 2 about this case, which was a racially charged case, which one could argue might have some implications for how someone acted 3 in a racially charged case which they have very strong 4 5 feelings about. Given that premise, given that intro, that's not a 6 7 fishing expedition, that's trying to find out whether or not 8 this person has some views which might affect how they would 9 react in a certain kind of situation. I don't see this as, you 10 know, just asking every witness what their views are. 11 MS. NELSON: Except that wasn't the foundation that 12 was laid, your Honor, Mr. Warren showed the witness and 13 exhibit, we read it, the witness read it, I think both Mr. 14 Myerberg and I went on the record to ask Mr. Warren if he 15 actually intended to ask questions about a blog concerning 16 Sean Bell, he said yes. He gave no other explanation. 17 If that is all, if we have a bare bones foundation, 18 other than what your Honor just gave us, we had not other 19 reason to believe that we should not instruct the witness not 20 to answer those questions. Mr. Warren did not lay that kind 21 of foundation. I'm sure it is in their application to the 22 Court, but that was not the circumstances under which we 23 objected to the questions at the deposition. 24 MR. WARREN: Judge, most respectfully, the whole 25 purpose in conducting a deposition is to establish if you have

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 2
    a reasonable basis that you believe supports asking a
    question, it's to ask questions that are relevant for purposes
 3
    of further down the road being in a position, depending on the
 4
 5
    response, to enlarge on that question and ask the same
 6
    question in the trial.
              THE COURT: Before we get too much into philosophy,
 7
 8
    what was the specific question that was asked that resulted in
 9
    the direction not to answer?
10
              MS. NELSON: We'll find it, your Honor.
11
                           As I recall, the question was whether,
              MR. WARREN:
12
    in fact, Officer Reynolds or Detective Reynolds, was the
13
    author of that blog.
14
                          Actually --
              MS. NELSON:
15
              MR. WARREN: Or the communications in the blog, I'm
16
    sorry.
17
              MS. NELSON:
                           I believe there was a question about
18
    whether or not Officer Reynolds created any blogs with
19
    internet postings, then he answered those questions, and then
20
    the reason for the objection though was have you ever made any
21
    comments on any publication concerning the Sean Bell case?
22
                          Okay, so that was the question?
              THE COURT:
23
              MS. NELSON:
                           That was the question that led to --
    that was the question that led to the objection. He certainly,
24
    he answered the questions, your Honor, as to whether he ever
25
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 2
    made any publications on any blogs or internet posts.
              MS. DAITZ: Also, your Honor, just reading from the
 3
    record, would point out that the defense counsel, Mr.
 4
 5
    Myerberg, inquired of Mr. Warren as to what the relevance of
    the line of questioning was prior to instructing the witness
 6
 7
    not to answer, and the only response was credibility. And Mr.
    Myerberg explained that the witness was a nonparty, and that
 8
 9
    he, having reviewed the blog entry about the Sean Bell case,
10
    did not believe it to be an appropriate area of inquiry. And
11
    Mr. Warren simply said we are going to reserve our right.
12
    There's no other statement on the record explaining, as
13
    thoroughly as plaintiffs did in their subsequent letter
14
    application, what the basis for their questioning was, and
15
    what the good faith basis was for pursuing that line of
16
    inquiry.
17
              THE COURT: And this, you keep referring to it as a
18
    third party, is this person a potential witness?
19
              MS. DAITZ:
                         He is a witness, he's a nonparty.
20
              THE COURT:
                         He's a nonparty witness.
21
              MS. DAITZ: He's a nonparty witness, yes, your
22
    Honor.
23
              THE COURT:
                          Okay.
24
              MS. DAITZ:
                          He was the arresting officer of certain
25
    of the people in the park.
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 2
              THE COURT:
                          And so just to be clear, as I understand
    it, the question here is whether to reopen this deposition for
 3
    this line of inquiry, that's it, right?
 4
 5
              MR. WARREN:
                           That's correct.
              THE COURT:
                          Okay. Now what did you want to add?
 6
              MR. WARREN: No, as I said, there is a connection in
 7
 8
    terms of one of the terminologies that was used by Detective
 9
    Reynolds, mutts, that was also used in public record in a book
10
    that as written by one of the defendants in this case, who
11
    worked with Detective Reynolds on this case, and that was
12
    Detective McKenna. And, of course, these are not questions
    that are simply asked out of a vacuum or asked harass, that's
13
14
    simply not the way we operate.
15
              We had a basis for asking good faith questions, we
16
    would still like to and I would still like to expand on those
17
    questions and reopen this deposition, not only as it relates
18
    to his communications in a public blog that had what I
19
    considered to be significant relevance to this case, and his
20
    testimony as a witness in this case, but also, as I said
21
    before, questions relating to CCRB complaints against him, IAB
22
    complaints against him, the lawsuits against him. All these
23
    things are relevant in terms of his credibility as a witness.
    I mean counsel can't have it both --
24
25
              THE COURT: I'm sorry, and you didn't ask those
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                                                          41
 2
    either?
              MR. WARREN: We asked -- we asked some of them
 3
    initially, but we were not allowed to expand on them at an
 4
 5
    point later on. And we decided that at the, when the
 6
    questions arose concerning the communications to the blog,
 7
    that we would raise all of these issues, especially since
    Officer Weir was in a similar situation in terms of us not
 8
 9
    being allowed to inquire into IAB complaints, that we would
10
    raise all of these matters to the Court in a logical way in
11
    the communication and have a hearing on the matter so the
12
    Court could make a ruling. And Mr. Beldock can --
13
              THE COURT:
                          But I guess, but Ms. Nelson is right
14
    though, other than saying credibility, you didn't really give
15
    your full theory of why this was relevant.
16
              MR. WARREN: Well, I indicated that, I thought I had
17
    indicated, I don't have a copy of the transcript with me, but
18
    I thought I had indicated that the relevancy related to his
19
    credibility as a witness in this case, and if he were called
20
    as a witness at a trial, that then credibility would be a
21
    relevant issue. I don't remember the exact context, but
22
    certainly it is relevant, your Honor.
23
              And that is the issue that is before us today. It is
24
25
              THE COURT: And who's the other witness?
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1 42 2 MS. NELSON: Weir. MR. BELDOCK: It was also James Weir, whose 3 deposition I took, your Honor, but it's all, this discussion 4 5 applies to all of the third party witnesses, police witnesses, third party witnesses who are former police officers involved 6 7 in this case. We have been faced with the blanket objection in the Weir case, and in the Reynolds matter, by the Corporation 8 9 Counsel, that they're third party witnesses so we can't go 10 into credibility issues of this nature. 11 Now I just want to point out to your Honor that we 12 didn't, we came upon this blog information quite close into, 13 if not the day before the Reynolds deposition. One of the most 14 key items on the blog we didn't discover till after the 15 Reynolds deposition. These items should have been given to us 16 in the first place, because that key item had to do with very 17 case. And one of those, that internet -- that internet item 18 had to do with his report to the public, to the people on his 19 blog, about the arrests he made in this case, and what he considered about the defendants. 20 21 So this is not a singular issue, this is an across 22 the board issue, and there is no way we should be prevented 23 from asking them questions of this nature because they're 24 third party witnesses. And what's more, they have asked the 25 same questions --

1 43 2 THE COURT: Counsel, counsel, counsel --MR. BELDOCK: They have asked all kinds of questions 3 of the same nature of our witnesses and of other witnesses. 4 5 THE COURT: Mr. Beldock, I have heard enough. with respect to the issue, and I think I understand the issue 6 7 now and I understand eh defendant's objections and the question of whether or not the inquiry concerning attitudes 8 9 that the witnesses may have is either too attenuated in terms 10 of time or circumstance. I find that the inquiry is relevant, 11 and my only issue, frankly, is whether or not it's generically 12 relevant or that there is some basis for the inquiry. And 13 while I would have, I think it would have been cleaner if the 14 dialog between counsel had made clear what was going on, I 15 understand that there was always some hesitancy on the part of 16 counsel to have a colloquy and then reveal what it is that 17 they want to ask questions about. 18 But it does seem to me that to the extent that there 19 are blogs where people are expressing opinions concerning what 20 have been termed by the parties racially charged incidents, 21 that goes beyond just somebody's personal opinions. And to the 22 extent that any witness has opined in public concerning these kinds of issues, I think that's fair inquiry. 23 That deposition, the Reynolds deposition, will be 24 25 reopened on a limited basis to inquire about the blog.

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 2
    Ms. Daitz?
                          Your Honor, given that the witness is a
 3
              MS. DAITZ:
    retire from the NYPD, and nonparty, and he has subsequent
 4
 5
    employment, we would request that the questions be, or the
    deposition be reopened via a deposition upon written
 6
 7
    questions, to see if there really is any need to bring back
 8
    this witness for an entirely new deposition for this limited
    line of inquiry.
 9
10
              THE COURT: All right, are you saying -- well,
11
    before you make that application, show me you cannot
12
    accommodate this within the framework of a regular deposition.
13
    We're only talking about an hour here, or so, I mean I don't
14
    know.
15
              MS. DAITZ:
                         Well, your Honor --
16
                          I don't expect this, well, first of all,
              THE COURT:
17
    I don't expect this to be more than part of a day. Are you
18
    trying to tell me something different, Mr. Warren?
19
              MR. WARREN:
                           Not at all, Judge. I try to be very
20
    frugal with time and I like to deal with the issues as they
21
    are significant. So I don't intend to waste time here. I mean
22
    if there is something there, it won't be an all day
23
    deposition, I can tell you that. It won't be an all day --
                          The bottom line is this --
24
              THE COURT:
25
              MR. WARREN: It won't be that.
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 2
              THE COURT:
                          All right. If you, before you request a
    deposition on written questions, which I think, I mean, look,
 3
    they're just not the same as a regular deposition. So if you,
 4
 5
    if there is some problem, you said, is he retired?
              MS. NELSON: He is retired, your Honor, from the
 6
 7
    police department.
 8
              THE COURT: Does he live in New York? Does he live
 9
    in New York?
10
              MR. WARREN: He lives in New York, he's in, as I
11
    recall, he said he was in real estate, he lives in the city,
12
    he has no problems getting to a deposition --
13
              MS. NELSON:
                           I'm not sure if that question was
14
    asked, but fine.
15
              THE COURT: Look, if you want to make that
16
    application, give me something more than just the idea that
17
    he's a third party and --
              MR. WARREN: Well, your Honor, I will say that he,
18
19
    during the deposition, one of the questions I asked him was
20
    how many times did he meet with Corporation Counsel, at least
21
    ten --
22
              THE COURT: You know, of course, at this point
23
    you're winning this issue, so I'm not sure --
24
              MR. WARREN:
                           I understand.
25
              MS. NELSON: Your Honor, I just want to clarify so
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    we all understand, the deposition is being reopened so that
    Officer Reynolds can answer questions regarding the blog that
 3
    was marked as Exhibit 9 at the deposition?
 4
 5
              THE COURT: Well, I guess that depends on where it
    leads --
 6
 7
              MR. WARREN: Judge, I'm also seeking one other area
 8
    that I've elaborated on.
 9
              THE COURT: So it's a good thing that she asked the
10
    question.
11
              MR. WARREN: Judge, no, but we've already talked
12
    about this, the disciplinary matters, the lawsuits, these are
13
    extremely critical in terms of the credibility --
14
              THE COURT: Now you said you had asked some
15
    questions along those lines?
16
              MR. WARREN: Some questions, but I wasn't able to
17
    really expand.
18
              THE COURT: When you say -- I'm sorry, when you say
19
    you weren't able to expand, what does that mean, you were
20
    prevented or?
21
              MR. WARREN:
                           Yes.
22
              MS. NELSON:
                           No. Let me just say --
23
              THE COURT:
                          Okay, Mr. Warren.
24
              MS. NELSON: Mr. Warren.
25
              THE COURT: Don't do that.
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1 47 2 MS. NELSON: Your Honor, Officer Reynolds was asked about prior lawsuits, he answered all of those questions, Mr. 3 Warren moved on. According to Mr. Warren's statement in 4 court, is that he didn't get a chance to go back and ask more 5 questions. That is not what we should be reopening the 6 7 deposition for. He asked those questions, he ended that line 8 of questioning, and he moved on to something else. Now in 9 retrospect he wants to go back and he wants to ask further 10 questions. I don't believe that the Court should allow him to 11 reopen the deposition to be able to do that. 12 MR. WARREN: Your Honor, there were certain areas 13 that I attempted to inquire in, although certain answers were 14 provided, and I distinctly remember Mr. Myerberg instructing 15 him not to answer because he considered the answer to those 16 question to be, or those questions, themselves, to be 17 irrelevant. And, your Honor, I think that again, that the, for 18 19 example, CCRB complaints, whether they were founded, 20 substantiated, IAB complaints, the fact -- I'm sorry, go 21 ahead. 22 THE COURT: Mr. Warren, I do not disagree with you; 23 however, I am not going to reopen the deposition for stuff 24 that you had an opportunity to inquire and then you stopped on

your own accord. If you want anything beyond what I've just

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 2
    ordered with respect to the blog --
 3
              MR. WARREN:
                           Yes.
              THE COURT: You show me in the deposition where you
 4
 5
    were prevented from asking.
 6
              MR. WARREN:
                           Yes.
                          If you make that showing, we'll consider
 7
              THE COURT:
 8
    it. But this is not for you to get a second bite at the apple
 9
    for things that you didn't go into in the detail that you
10
    would have liked or in retrospect you said, oh, maybe I should
11
    have asked this question. Only if you, if you can demonstrate
12
    to me that you were not allowed to explore those issues fully,
13
    that would be the initial showing. And then if you were
14
    prevented from asking, and I don't mean where counsel in a
15
    colloguy said, okay, I think that's enough, then we'll deal
16
    with the blog. Other than that, let's see what you've got for
17
    me.
18
              MS. NELSON: One separate issue, from my
19
    understanding, Mr. Warren brought up three, which is the blog,
20
    the lawsuits and --
21
              THE COURT:
                          The CCRB.
22
                           The CCRB, and I believe Mr. Beldock
              MS. NELSON:
23
    also said Civilian Complaint histories. We've always put our
    objection on the record, actually very similar to what Mr.
24
25
    Warren is now asking for, which is substantiate/
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    unsubstantiated, you've also added, of a similar nature, and
    we've allowed every single witness, including the nonparty
 3
    witness, to answer that question.
 4
 5
              We phrase our objection based on previous rulings
    that are published by your Honor, with respect to the
 6
 7
    production of CCRB and IAB disciplinary information. Apart
    from those objections, substantiated/unsubstantiated of a
 8
 9
    similar nature, we've allowed our witnesses to answer the
10
    question, and we certainly allowed Eric Reynolds to answer in
11
    this case.
12
              So to have him go back again and revisit that issue,
13
    again, I think Mr. Warren has figured out in retrospect that
14
    there are other questions that he wants to ask, that weren't
15
    asked at the deposition. And that he had the opportunity to
16
    ask the deposition.
17
              THE COURT: So that all the parties will understand,
    that will be the basic inquiry, from my point of view.
18
19
              MR. BELDOCK: Let me just read something that's very
20
    pertinent.
21
              THE COURT:
                          Yes.
22
              MR. BELDOCK: Because Ms. Nelson's memory is wrong.
23
              MS. NELSON:
                           Okay.
              MR. BELDOCK: As I wrote in my letter or July 22<sup>nd</sup> to
24
25
    your Honor: "On Tuesday of this week in the course of my
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1 50 2 deposing former Officer Seamus Weir, Assistant Corporation Counsel Elizabeth Dollin objected to my asking if there were 3 ever any civilian or IAB complaints made against him, and 4 5 whether he was ever disciplined as a police officer. Ms. Dollin would not let him answer on the grounds that he was a 6 7 nonparty witness. This relates to my previous statement that this is a universal problem we have, and Ms. Nelson is simply 8 9 wrong in her memory, and they are blocking us from asking 10 questions that should be easily allowed and should not be 11 blocked. That point is quite significant, because it doesn't 12 have to do just with Reynolds and Weir --13 MR. WARREN: That's right. 14 MR. BELDOCK: It has to do with the next ten 15 depositions we're taking. 16 MS. NELSON: Let me just say, your Honor, we've 17 taken about between 20 and 30 of these depositions, we put the 18 same objection on the record every time, more or less, I've 19 been to every one of them. And we have allowed the witness to 20 answer every time. I think it is well past the time for 21 plaintiff to raise this objection, if they want to raise this 22 objection. And like I said, we base our objection on your 23 Honor's previous rulings on this issue. 24 The only thing we have asked is that the questions 25 be limited to a similar nature as the claims in this case --

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              MR. BELDOCK: Judge, what I just put in shows that
 3
    she's wrong.
              THE COURT: Okay, counsel, I --
 4
 5
              MR. BELDOCK:
                            She's wrong though.
              THE COURT:
                          If there's -- if there is an issue of
 6
 7
    witnesses being directed not to answer, and I don't mean just
 8
    objections, okay, then, you know, by all means bring those to
 9
    me. I mean I would prefer that lawyers not object, but there
10
    is a difference between saying that you object to a question
11
    and directing the witness not to answer. Because I get these
12
    all the time, some lawyer says I object, then the lawyers says
    are you going to direct him not to answer, and he says no.
13
14
              If you're telling me that you are asking questions
15
    concerning prior incidents about an officer and there was an
16
    objection, you'll have to point it out to me.
17
              MR. BELDOCK:
                            I mean but that's what I pointed out
18
    in my letter. That was one of the bases for this application,
19
    I'm pointing out, I specifically pointed out that Ms. Dollin
20
    prevented me from asking about civilian or IAB complaints made
21
    against Officer Weir. It's on the first page, it's in the
22
    second paragraph, it's exactly what happened, Ms. Dollin said
23
    I can't ask this of a third party witness, and Ms. Dollin
    said, directed him not to answer.
24
25
              Now we're going to have this problem all the time,
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    we shouldn't have it at all, these witnesses are not third
    party neutral witnesses, they are part of the police officers
 3
    who were involved in this case.
 4
 5
              THE COURT:
                         Mr. Beldock, you do say that she would
    not let him answer on the grounds that he was a nonparty
 6
 7
    witness.
 8
              MR. BELDOCK: Yes.
 9
              MS. ELIZABETH DOLLIN: Your Honor?
10
              THE COURT:
                          Yes.
11
              MS. DOLLIN: Elizabeth Dollin. I did attend Officer
    Weir's deposition, and I believe, and I don't have the
12
13
    transcript in front of me, that as Ms. Nelson had pointed out,
14
    I believe my objection was to limit or allow him to answer
15
    questions about IAB and CCRB complaints that were similar in
16
    nature and to a relevant time period.
17
              Now I don't, your Honor, have that deposition
18
    transcript in front of me, but that has been our practice with
19
    respect to nonparty witnesses.
20
              THE COURT: And why do you make a distinction,
21
    nonparty witnesses?
22
              MS. DOLLIN: With all witnesses, your Honor, I'm
23
    sorry, with all witnesses.
24
              THE COURT:
                          Oh, okay.
25
              MS. DOLLIN: And so I believe that that was our
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    objection and our instruction, but I don't have the transcript
    in front of me.
 3
              THE COURT: You didn't give me the transcript, Mr.
 4
 5
    Beldock, did you?
 6
              MR. BELDOCK: No, I did not, your Honor.
              THE COURT:
                          Okay. Well, I'm not exactly sure
 7
 8
    exactly what happened though. Mr. Beldock asked him about
 9
    complaints and you object, and then what happens?
10
              MR. BELDOCK: Well, if my letter is correct and I
11
    thought it was when I wrote it, I asked him if there were ever
12
    any civilian or IAB complaints made against him and whether he
13
    was every disciplined as a police officer. I hope I'm
14
    correct, it hasn't been objected to on the fact, and Ms.
15
    Dollin would not let him answer on the grounds that he was a
16
    nonparty witness. And I was less concerned about Weir than
17
    the principle, in general.
                         Okay. Then what is the objection to
18
              THE COURT:
19
    that question?
20
              MS. DOLLIN: Your Honor, again, I'm not sure that my
21
    objection was, and I don't have the transcript in front of me,
22
    and I also raised that this was not presented, this issue of
23
    Weir was not presented to us when we had our meet and confer,
    so I'm not fully prepared to discuss it.
24
25
              However, it has been our practice with respect to
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1 54 2 witnesses, when they're asking, when the plaintiffs are asking questions about IAB and CCRBs to please limit them to allow 3 them to answer questions about cases of a similar nature and 4 5 limited time. Okay, before you continue, let me just 6 THE COURT: 7 be clear about my position on this. While I might do that if I'm asking, if the question is asking the lawyers to produce 8 9 the information, I might make some limitation and tell them to 10 say what's relevant. I don't have the same confidence in a 11 witness. That is if you're at a deposition, I don't think you 12 can ask the witness just tell me the ones that you think are 13 relevant or similar. I just don't think that works. 14 MS. DOLLIN: Your Honor, I understand. Again, we 15 based that objection on rulings from -- and we would, as Ms. 16 Nelson points out, we would know and point them out --17 THE COURT: Okay, but again, just so you'll be clear, if I got a request from a party, let's say a plaintiff 18 19 in a case involving a police officer, and they said give me 20 the police officer's CCRB. The first issue, sustained/not 21 sustained, I would say that's not going to get you not 22 producing it. If you said similar/non-similar, I might let the 23 lawyer make that distinction because, you know, depending on what kind of, if the question was if I had a case involving 24 25 police brutality and the question was whether or not the

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police officer was accused of, you know, writing tickets, that might be in play as to whether or not you're producing it.

But regardless of what I would do in terms of what I would allow the lawyer to do for the City, in a deposition, it just can't work. That is you can't ask a witness to give me only the CCRB ones that are relevant because you're not asking, that person can't make that determination. And so I would not allow you to direct that witness not to answer the broad question because I'm not going to allow him to make the determination, him or her. And so at the deposition, it will necessarily be broader because until the lawyers bring it out or until, because there is no way, for example, I mean, for example, if it's producing a production of documents, I mean most of the lawyers on the plaintiff's side will say, well, Judge, I don't want the defendant to make that determination because they're going to be more narrow. And at least the default is I can look it and I can determine whether or not I'm going to allow it in.

At the deposition, it can't work that way because we don't know what he's going to say and we don't know the full, I mean it's not as if he says, okay, no, I don't have anything relevant, that the plaintiffs' attorney is going to be able to do anything about that. I don't think you can limit it at the deposition.

1 56 2 So I would say that whatever distinction the City was making in terms of those, I think we may have an issue 3 that needs to be addressed here. 4 5 MS. DOLLIN: Your Honor, I would point out that, again, I don't have a transcript in front of me, but I believe 6 7 at the Weir deposition, plaintiffs' counsel was asked to allow and did ask questions like were you ever charged with theft as 8 9 a member of the NYPD, were you ever charged with other, and he 10 was allowed and he did answer those specific questions as to 11 whether you were ever charged with theft, with whether you 12 were ever charged with acting dishonestly. Those questions 13

So I hear what the Court is saying, but I don't want it to appear that we just blocked the plaintiffs entirely, we did not.

were asked and answered.

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THE COURT: Okay. Well the bottom line here is that at the deposition I expect the questions to be asked and answered more broadly, and that is I don't expect if you are asking a police officer about his disciplinary record, that there be directions not to answer. Because there is no way for us to determine ahead of time which ones are going to lead to relevant evidence, because I don't know what's in it.

MS. NELSON: Your Honor, I do understand your ruling, and once the witness answers that question and it is

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    clear from the nature of his answer that it's, really, it's
 2
    not relevant, how much further does he need to go into that
 3
    line of questions? If he says, your Honor, have you ever been
 4
 5
    disciplined by the police department; yes, I have, I lost my
    shield, is that sufficient?
 6
              THE COURT:
                          If he lost his shield?
 7
              MS. NELSON: Well, it's clearly -- it's clearly an
 8
 9
    issue that is not relevant, whatever the issue may be,
10
    whatever he was disciplined for.
              THE COURT: The problem, Ms. Nelson, is I don't know
11
12
    whether I could even answer the clearly question in the
13
    abstract. So I'm not going to -- I'm not going to say, okay,
14
    for the plaintiffs, you know, you have carte blanche, I'm not
15
    going to say to the defendants if it's clearly not relevant,
16
    because I don't know what that means.
17
              MS. NELSON: Okay.
              THE COURT: Because I don't even know the context in
18
19
    which it's going to arise. I would say that you can anticipate
20
    that, I'll err on the side of allowing it, because it's
21
    discovery. And I don't, I mean we're not talking about, and I
22
    think this came up in an earlier conference, we're not talking
23
    about information that is locked in a safe someplace. I mean
    at this point if there is something that needs to be
24
25
    confidential, you can argue about that, but as to whether or
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1 58 2 not we're going to allow questions about it, it seems to me I don't know how we're going to make any determination about 3 what can and can't be considered relevant. 4 5 MS. DILLON: Your Honor, I think that the only thing that the defendants, and I understand the difficulty in, you 6 7 know, ruling in the abstract and sort of putting it in context is, I just think that what we're trying to avoid is mini 8 9 depositions on completely unrelated incidents where the 10 allegations in either unrelated lawsuits or unrelated CCRB, 11 are delved into to a significant extent in terms of who --12 THE COURT: Well, look, if any of the plaintiffs' 13 lawyers spends two hours talking about that and they lose 14 their seven hours, that's on them. If they want to spend time 15 on stuff like that, and the seven hours is up, the seven hours 16 They won't be able to convince me that they need any 17 more time. I mean at some point the lawyer is their own --18 their own limit as to what, I mean understand that for me the 19 questions you're asking become difficult because I could never 20 see myself spending two hours on something which I wouldn't 21 thin would be relevant. And I give everybody the benefit of 22 the doubt that no lawyer is going to spend time just for the 23 sake of spending time, they made their determination of what's relevant, and what you think is relevant may be different, but 24 25 by and large lawyers spend time on what they think is

1 59 2 important. But as I said, you might disagree on what's 3 important, but if they think that spending time on one 4 5 particular complaint is warranted, and that takes away from 6 their ability to ask something else, they may, you know, they 7 may find that the seven hours is up and then they'll say we want additional time and they'll come to me and I'll say, 8 well, you know, that ship has sailed. 9 10 MS. DILLON: Your Honor, I think that's just what I 11 was trying to establish was that the Court's ruling that 12 inquiry into disciplinary history, CCRB history, other 13 lawsuits, are presumptively relevant for the purpose of the 14 deposition, does not mean that that's grounds to ask those 15 questions in hours seven through nine of the deposition. I think, I mean if, I've said what I've 16 THE COURT: 17 had to say about it, I am assuming that all the lawyers here 18 are going to use their time, considering all the disagreements 19 that we've had, you know, you are always going to have the 20 burden of demonstrating to me that you didn't get to ask all 21 of the important questions. And so I always tell lawyers 22 this, if you have any question about what's the most important questions, ask the most important questions first. 23 24 I mean we were talking about Mr. Warren before 25 deferring, I mean if he wants, if he wanted to talk about an

1 60 2 hour about some CCRB thing, he'd better do that not in the beginning and use up his seven hours. And so I think the rule 3 is there for the reason that we don't want lawyers thinking 4 5 that they can say and do whatever they want and take up the time of a witness. 6 So, you know, you can be judicious in your use of 7 8 time and that's the limitation that people have. 9 MR. BELDOCK: Judge, can we speak some more about 10 time now, your Honor, I think we're through. I hope we're 11 through with this issue. 12 MS. NELSON: Just two more very small matters, Mr. 13 Beldock, and one is, your Honor, from your Honor's ruling, I 14 don't know that I should assume, but we can raise issues 15 regarding individual witnesses that are coming up for 16 deposition, in the event we seek ahead of time that we need to 17 move for a protective order or something else we cannot agree 18 with plaintiffs once we confer? 19 THE COURT: You lose none of the rights that you have under the federal rules, and I think that's one of them. 20 21 MS. NELSON: Thank you. My, but the other thing I 22 want to discuss is the limitations to the Reynolds deposition. 23 In light of what your Honor said, I don't believe that we were out of our seven hours, but we certainly didn't have an hour 24 25 left. And if all the deposition is going to be reopened for

1 61 2 is so that Mr. Warren can inquire into its Exhibit 9, then I don't believe that the deposition should be extended for an 3 4 hour. 5 MR. WARREN: Judge --THE COURT: Okay. All right, the way I answer that 6 7 question is always this way. I'm not a big fan of limiting depositions, per se, because it gives one side or the other 8 the opportunity to say, if I say well you get an hour, then 9 10 the other side says, well, we'll take an hour. And by the same 11 token, the side that's defending can stretch it out and then 12 it gets over the hour. 13 As long as Mr. Warren has traction in his questions, 14 then he'll be on safe ground. If, whoever, depending on the 15 deposition, says, you know, gets to the point and they think 16 Mr. Warren is just harassing the witness and he's not asking 17 anything that's really productive, then, you know, stop the 18 deposition, call me, we'll answer that question. 19 But I don't know where it will lead. I mean he could 20 start asking him about the blog and, you know, the next thing 21 I know, there's a whole area of inquiry that opens up that's 22 going to be even longer than the blog inquiry. 23 MS. NELSON: Okay, but my understanding is that the 24 deposition is going to be reopened for inquiries into the 25 blog.

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              THE COURT:
                          And anything that reasonably that leads
    to, because I don't --
 3
              MS. NELSON: The blog, you mean?
 4
 5
              THE COURT:
                          Right.
              MS. NELSON:
                           I understand.
 6
                          Right, I mean if, he might talk about
 7
              THE COURT:
 8
    the blog and then he starts talking about a tweet and a book
    he's drafting, and --
 9
10
              MS. NELSON: Well, your Honor, that actually brings
11
    up the other issue that I want to raise, which was the
12
    documents which were found after the deposition. The blog is
13
    available to everyone, it wasn't our obligation to produce to
14
    plaintiff documents that were publicly accessible.
15
    extent those were not ready and available at Mr. Reynolds'
16
    deposition when he did his first sitting, I don't believe that
17
    plaintiff should then get another bite to ask him about
18
    documents that they did not locate before his deposition that
19
    we did not obstruct them from locating.
20
                          Okay, unfortunately, in the electronic
              THE COURT:
21
    age, things like this can happen. I'm not going to prevent
22
    them from asking questions about stuff which they discovered
23
    afterwards and I'm not going to blame you for not giving them
24
    any information. Because the problem, and this is the
25
    difficultly we have when we start to have people make
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1 63 2 determinations about what's relevant. I understand your position, and if I understand your 3 position, even if you knew about it you would not have 4 5 produced it because you wouldn't have thought it was relevant. MS. NELSON: Well, no, it's not in our possession, 6 7 custody and control, your Honor. 8 THE COURT: Well you would not have identified it --9 well, if you have a witness and the witness has something, you 10 might, you might feel that you ought to reveal things about 11 the witness. I mean if the witness had written a book, you 12 don't think you would let the plaintiffs know. 13 MS. NELSON: I think they are aware of all the books 14 that were written, your Honor. 15 THE COURT: My point is though that I don't think 16 that I can -- I don't think it makes sense to limit someone 17 based upon information which seems related to what I opened 18 the deposition for. Are you saying what they've discovered is 19 completely, is something entirely different? 20 MS. NELSON: We don't know, your Honor. At the 21 deposition we asked Mr. Warren to mark as exhibits those 22 documents that we were objecting to that he wanted to reserve 23 his right on. He marked Exhibit 9, he marked nothing else. 24 And pursuant to the application that the plaintiffs made, they 25 found it after the fact. They found other information after

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    the fact that they now want to inquire into at this sitting.
                          Okay. Well, I guess there are two ways
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              THE COURT:
    to handle it. I don't know what it is that we're talking
 4
 5
    about, Mr. Warren, but you can either, you can let me know and
    I can rule on it ahead of time, or you can run the risk of
 6
 7
    this becoming an issue.
 8
              MR. BELDOCK: I covered this in my letter, Judge.
 9
              MR. WARREN: It's in the letter, Judge.
10
              MR. BELDOCK: I've already, I mean this is totally,
11
    this is such nitpicking. I said one such internet document,
12
    one of two which we did not discover until after Reynolds'
13
    deposition was ended, and which was not, and should have been
14
    produced by defendants in response to the notice and subpoena
15
    for Reynolds' deposition, in which we asked for any and all
16
    materials, in any form he may have, related in any way to the
17
    subject matter of this case, pertaining to discussion about
18
    his involvement in the initial arrests of the five persons
19
    including two of the present plaintiffs outside Central Park
20
    on the night of the event. I mean that we are being --
21
              THE COURT: Mr. Beldock, Mr. Beldock --
22
              MR. BELDOCK: That we are getting to this level of
23
    debate --
24
                           That's right, I mean we're being unduly
              MR. WARREN:
25
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1 65 THE COURT: 2 Counsel, counsel, okay. All right, let's not forget rule number one, when the Judge starts 3 talking, you have to let the Judge finish. Okay. 4 5 regard, if, if what you're telling me, and understand, when you, when the parties are talking, you're a lot more familiar 6 7 with what you've said to me than I am, because I'm not as focused on what it is. And if what you're saying is that this 8 9 is information that should have been produced because it 10 already related to his testimony, and I don't know exactly 11 what it is, so it doesn't register the same way to me, that 12 will come out at the deposition, I'm sure. But you have not 13 let the Corp Counsel know what it is that you've discovered 14 that should have been produced? 15 MR. BELDOCK: We've given it to them. 16 THE COURT: Oh, so you know what it is. 17 MR. BELDOCK: It's part of my letter. I understand that, but if there, part 18 MS. NELSON: 19 of our objection, first, is that we should have produced it. 20 So my interpretation of that is that we now need to Google 21 every witness that we produce in order to give plaintiffs what 22 are publicly available. The document that they said they found 23 after Reynolds' deposition was something that was publicly available on the internet. And apparently they found it 24 25 pursuant to a search that they did after his deposition. I

1 66 2 don't think that they should have the right to inquire into anything that they found after his sitting where we opened 3 this deposition for a limited purpose. We asked Mr. Warren to 4 5 mark those documents that he intended to seek relief from the Court, he marked Exhibit 9. If the deposition is going to be 6 7 reopened, it should be just issues limited just to Exhibit 9. 8 THE COURT: Okay, I disagree. You get to, if --9 look, I'm not -- search engines can find stuff, you can do 10 searches, you can find stuff, if you do it on Goggle it might 11 come up, if you do it on ask.com, it might come up. If you 12 don't put in the right search terms, it might not come up. 13 Look, this is not even a question of holding the 14 defendants responsible for not finding it. I'm not sure 15 anybody would have necessarily found it. So the only question 16 for me is if I'd known about it ahead of time, would I have 17 said you can ask him about? And since you are already doing 18 this deposition, the answer is yes. 19 MS. DAITZ: Your Honor, I just want to clarify with 20 respect to the latter part of your ruling, that the premise is 21 if we're already going to reopen this particular deposition, 22 it's not giving plaintiffs carte blanche to Google witnesses 23 after their depositions and use those documents as grounds for a second sitting. 24

THE COURT: The only thing that's in play now is the

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    exhibit that was marked having to do with the blog, what was
    mentioned in Mr. Beldock's letter, and anything that the
 3
    questioning flows from. I'm not, so you understand this, Mr.
 4
    Warren, if you got some minions to go out and do searches on
 5
 6
    the web and found something else, don't spring it on the
    defendants.
 7
 8
              MR. WARREN:
                           Judge, I --
 9
              THE COURT:
                          Just, I don't expect that you --
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              MR. WARREN: I, respectfully, I don't operate in
11
    that fashion, but I think that in the metaphorical sense a
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    gentle stream oftentimes turns into a wider river, oftentimes
13
    turns into a lake, and ultimately goes to the ocean. And in
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    terms of discovery process, which your Honor so eloquently
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    referred to not long ago, that is the nature of a deposition.
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    And so I don't want to be unduly restricted as a result of
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    entering this stream with the hopes of going to that ocean. I
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    don't want to be unduly restricted by their subjective
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    perceptions of how I should be limited. I just, respectfully,
    I'm requesting that your Honor agree with me on that point.
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              MS. DAITZ: I think, your Honor, that we all agree at
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    this point that going forward with respect to the Reynolds
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    deposition and any other deposition is that if there is a
    basis for defendants to instruct the witness not to answer,
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    that we'll order, in the case of the Reynolds deposition, for
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1 68 2 some reason to end the deposition, that we'll promptly reach out to the Court in the first instance in the hopes of getting 3 a ruling at that time. 4 5 THE COURT: Okay. And just a reminder, if you have, with the Reynolds deposition, anyone that you think might be 6 7 potentially of interest to me, let me know when they're taking place. We don't work nine to five, we're here after that, so 8 9 you can call us. If you call the law clerk, you can call the 10 law clerk at six, seven, who knows when they'll be here. They 11 may not go home as far as I know, they're here when I leave 12 and they're here when I come in the morning. And the reality is, is that even if I'm not here, if 13 14 you call you may be able to reach me. So don't even, you 15 know, there is no time that is actually off limits once you 16 get the law clerk. 17 MR. WARREN: I guess, you know, my concern is that I don't want, from what I'm listening to from the other table, I 18 19 don't want this to turn into an obstructive spitting contest, 20 you know, where it's an attempt to violate the nature of the 21 flow or the questions in the deposition. And whether it's intentional or otherwise. 22 23 And so I wouldn't want to belabor, I wouldn't want 24 to, for example, be put in the situation where as a result of 25 their recalcitrance, unfounded recalcitrance, we're forced to

1 69 2 call you ever 10 minutes or every 15 minutes we're forced to call you to deal with these type of issues, or 5 minutes. 3 THE COURT: Well, okay, let me just say, the first 4 5 time you call me will probably be the last time you get to call me, and whoever loses that probably won't get to call me 6 7 again. MS. NELSON: And I will say, your Honor, we've had 8 9 depositions that we had to reopen and we have been very 10 accommodating as to not only scheduling, but at deposition I 11 don't believe we have ever engaged in the behavior that Mr. 12 Warren is anticipating. And it's one of the reasons that we 13 want to get the parameters clear now, so that we're all aware 14 of it, so we go into this deposition, we all know what to 15 anticipate. 16 Again, just so we'll understand that THE COURT: 17 there, and I can't anticipate a situation where information 18 could come to Mr. Warren, not necessarily even from the web, 19 as he's asking about, as he's asking questions. I think you 20 have to, you have to understand that that's not going to be 21 necessarily a situation in which I'm going to say, well, you 22 can't ask that question just because it came to you belatedly. 23 The deposition will be reopened, I don't expect there to be 24 any strange surprises, but I will let the deposition go where

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the flow takes it.

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              MR. BELDOCK: May I, your Honor?
              THE COURT: Yes.
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              MR. BELDOCK: There is, I thought I was going to
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    raise this 15 minutes ago, there is one pressing issue,
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    discovery cutoff is now, if I remember correctly, September
    30<sup>th</sup>. Obviously, and we've discussed this, it can't be
 7
    September 30<sup>th</sup>. And there is a difference of opinion on the
 8
 9
    two sides as to whether your Honor should set a cutoff date.
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    It will be almost nine years since we started this case at the
11
    end of this year, it's three years of discovery. We appreciate
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    the pressures, absolutely, on both sides, no matter what
13
    debates we have, the case is difficult, many witnesses, many
14
    papers and so on. And you have before you the problem of
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    8,000 papers, so I'm a little hesitant to say what I'm about
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    to say, but I'm going to say it anyhow, we want a cutoff date
17
    at the end of the year, except for expert witnesses.
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              We want to be able to finish the depositions. We
19
    have maybe 15, 20 depositions --
20
              THE COURT: And the City doesn't want a cutoff date?
    Is that what it is?
21
22
              MR. WARREN: The City does not want a -- no. No,
23
    they don't want a cutoff date at the end of the year, that's
24
    our understanding.
25
              MS. DAITZ: Your Honor, it's not that we want an
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1 71 2 indefinite extension of discovery, we've agreed to request an extension at the time until December 31st, but we don't believe 3 that we'll be able conclude all of the remaining discovery in 4 that time period. And part of the reason is not because 5 defendants are not -- you know, defendants are producing 6 7 witnesses, or producing documents, we've had a pretty significant delay in getting the releases from plaintiffs that 8 9 we need, in getting documents from third parties in preparing 10 to take the plaintiffs' depositions. The plaintiffs just 11 requested another extension of time to respond to our 12 discovery request, which we consented to. 13 But the delays and the holdups to some extent, and 14 some have to do with joint applications or discovery 15 applications that we, you know, await a ruling, and then 16 before the depositions at that time. But defendants shouldn't 17 be in a position where plaintiffs can complete taking the 18 officer depositions by mid November and then we have six weeks 19 to do all the discovery that we need to do, even assuming, for the sake of argument that we have all the information we need 20 21 at that time to move forward with the depositions that we need 22 to take. 23 So the only reason that we're anticipating that we won't necessarily be able to complete all the fact discovery 24 by December 31st is, you know, pending the Court's ruling on 25

1 72 2 the work product issue at the least, we have a number of witnesses that we'll need to prepare and produce for 3 deposition and then still have all of these 14, 15 familial 4 5 plaintiffs to take their depositions. MS. NELSON: In addition to that, your Honor, I know 6 7 your Honor is aware of the numerous depositions that the parties have indicated that we wanted to take, and I believe a 8 9 couple of months ago plaintiffs added to that list. And we've 10 been producing those witnesses for deposition, as well. 11 So they have added to their list, we've produced 12 those people, in addition to the witnesses that they 13 previously had on notice. We just don't believe it's realistic 14 that we're going to finish everything by December 31st. 15 THE COURT: Okay, well, first of all, I think 16 everybody wants to have an end to it, including Judge Batts, 17 so we're going to set a discovery cutoff. But by the same 18 token, I don't think any -- well, most of the District Judges 19 don't want a case that is half prepared for discovery. So what 20 we'll do is we'll set a discovery cutoff, and I know you have 21 lots of work to do, but I need to know what's going to be 22 happening, what needs to be done in discovery so that I could have some sense of whether or not you can make the deadline. 23 24 I mean I know you said some things here, but it's, 25 you said that there have been additions, and I'm not exactly

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    sure what you propose to do in the next three or four months.
                          Your Honor, I would say we probably have
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              MS. DAITZ:
    in the vicinity of 30 to 40 depositions remaining.
 4
 5
              THE COURT: And what's the difficulty in starting to
    schedule them now?
 6
              MS. DAITZ: Oh, we have, your Honor, we have
 7
    depositions on the schedule and, in fact, the parties have
 8
 9
    even arranged to travel to certain correctional facilities to
10
    depose nonparty witnesses, including one in Western
11
    Pennsylvania in the coming weeks. So we certainly are all
12
    working together on the scheduling issues, and we, you know,
13
    broached the subject with plaintiffs again about just getting
14
    the last of the corrected releases and we're still awaiting,
15
    like I said, the responses from the IRS regarding the tax
16
    forms, and certainly of Daniel Wise.
17
              And the parties are continuing cross productions of
18
    documents, we're awaiting plaintiffs' responses to defendant's
19
    last document request and interrogatories are due on September
    15<sup>th</sup>. So upon receipt and review of that information, we should
20
21
    definitely be in the position to start scheduling the
22
    remaining familial plaintiffs' depositions, you know, in that
23
    time period. Assuming, because I'm an optimist, that there is
    no deficiencies in plaintiffs' responses and we take what we
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25
    get and we'll be prepared to go forward at that time. And, if
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    not, we'll certainly bring any issue to your Honor's attention
    prior to whenever our next conference --
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              THE COURT: So you're going to attempt to schedule
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    to complete discovery, you're just not sure that you'll be
    able to do it.
 6
              MS. DAITZ: We're just not sure that that's enough
 7
    time to get it done, your Honor, but we're making every
 8
 9
    effort.
10
              THE COURT: Anybody who makes a good faith effort
11
    will always get my ear. Anything else?
12
              MR. BELDOCK: The next conference date before your
13
    Honor --
14
              THE COURT: Yes.
15
              MR. BELDOCK: And then maybe you can be, we can be
16
    more informative as to what has to be done yet. Early
17
    November I think would be a good amount of time to develop
18
    what we're doing.
19
              THE COURT: Okay. All right, tentatively, November
    10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. I don't actually have my trial calendar, but
20
21
    we'll, if there is any change we'll let you know.
22
              MR. BELDOCK: We'll bring Mr. Kendall back for that
23
    day.
                          I think that might be cruel and unusual
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              THE COURT:
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    punishment. Okay, we'll be adjourned and I'll get back to you
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Case 1:03-cv-09685-RLE Document 151 Filed 09/29/11 Page 75 of 76

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    with the --
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              MR. BELDOCK: Thank you.
              MR. WARREN: Thank you, your Honor.
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 5
              MS. DAITZ: Thank you, your Honor.
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              THE COURT: Don't forget to let me know when the
 7
    Reynolds deposition and the others are going to be.
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              (Whereupon the matter is adjourned to
 9
    November 10th, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.)
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           I, Carole Ludwig, certify that the foregoing transcript
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 6
     Southern District of New York, McCray, Richardson, et al.
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               September 13, 2011
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